THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2393. *Thursday, Aug.* 13, 1829. *Price* 1*d*.

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer*.

Haymarket Theatre.

LAST night at this house the four following pieces were played in admirable style, to a very numerous audience, who testified their delight by repeated plaudits, *Spring and Autumn*, *Charles the Twelfth*, *The Happiest Day of my Life*, and *Manœuvring*.

English Opera House.

A NEW Melo-drama, entitled *The Witness*, was last night produced at this Theatre with the most complete and deserved success. The following is an outline of the plot:—About twenty years before the commencement of the drama, two friends, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Elton, who though gentlemen, employed themselves in smuggling, or as it was called, the running trade, were returning home from a successful voyage, when a quarrel arose between them, which was, however, made up, but while walking on the deck it was renewed: Mr. Elton again struck Mr. Henderson, and the next minute Mr. Elton was heard to fall with a dreadful shriek into the sea. Mr. Henderson was tried for the murder of his friend, and acquitted. When the piece opens, Frank Elton, (Perkins,) the son of the murdered man, is returning, after nine years absence, to the house of Mr. Henderson, who has brought him up, and treated him like a son;—overtaken by a storm, he seeks shelter in the cottage of old Janet, (Miss Pincott,) whose kinsman, Harding, (O. Smith,) is a deer stealer. Elton, on discovering the nature of his host's occupation, to avoid suspicion, pretends deafness, and thus overhears Janet speak mysteriously of his father's death; and Harding hold out threats against him:—he, in consequence, flies from the cottage, leaving his hat and cloak behind, and arrives at Mr. Henderson's house wet to the skin. His servant, Tom Tremor, (Keeley) and Alice, (Mrs. Keeley) give him a suit of his father's cloathes, in which he is introduced by Catharine Henderson, (Miss Kelly) to her father, (J. Vining) who, mistaking him for the spirit of his murdered friend, utters the most incoherent expressions, and flies from his presence. Immediately after, Harding is brought in a prisoner, and desires Elton to tell Mr. Henderson, that the day he is sent to prison will be a fatal day for him, adding other threatening words;—this, coupled with what he had heard from old Janet, excites strange feelings in the mind of Elton, who retires to his bedchamber; when his father appears to him, and denounces Henderson as his murderer. His cries of horror bring in Mr. Henderson and his daughter;—Elton charges Henderson with the crime, who instantly falls senseless. On his recovery, he confesses to his daughter his guilt,

and directly after the officers come to take him prisoner; his daughter, assisted by Alice, conceals him behind a picture, but believing the officers to have left the house, he prematurely leaves his concealment, and is taken. An investigation then takes place before Mr. Holmes, a Magistrate (F. Mathews): Janet and Frank Elton give their evidence against him, when *the Witness* appears, who proves to be the supposed murdered man, who moved by the penitence of his old friend, forgives him, and then consents to the marriage of the lovers.—There was some very pretty music by Mr. A. Lee. Mrs. Keeley was encored in two songs. Of the acting generally it is impossible to speak too highly. Mr. J. Vining played in a manner which must add greatly to his reputation; he depicted the agonies of remorse in the most powerful manner. Miss Kelly exerted her transcendent talent with the most felicitous effect. We have not space to particularize but shall resume our remarks on the acting to-morrow. The Drama excited much interest, and was received with great applause;—its repetition was announced for to-night amidst loud cheers. *Military Tactics*, and *Presumption!* followed; there was a new catastrophe given to the latter piece, which was making the Monster and *Frankenstein* founder on board a schooner, agreeable to Mrs. Shelly's ending of her novel. It had a very good effect, and was loudly applauded.

Minor Theatre.—An amateur performance took place here last night; consisting of *Douglas*, and *The Miller and his Men*. The parts of *Lord Randolph* and *Young Norval*, by Messrs. Belville and Henry, were enacted in a superior manner.—The *Lady Randolph*, of Miss Ellis, was very respectable;—in short, the whole performances went off with éclat.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Dear Mr Editor, I address you from the Cigar Divan, King-street, Covent Garden, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines, and play a game of Chess—delightful place——Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

On Monday, must take another peep at the two new views, at the Diorama, Regent's Park—was puzzled to decide which was the most beautiful, St. Peter's or the Village of Thiers—both exquisitely painted—the pictorial illusion complete—the water flowing, smoke ascending, sun shining—quite nature itself.—Had difficulty to persuade a fair lady next me, that we were really viewing merely pictures. Shall put off my journey to Italy, as I'm told, *sub rosa*, we shall have other views from that classic soil; and if as good as St. Peter's will satisfy me.

On Tuesday, I drop into the Exhibition of Sculpture, in Old Bond Street, to view the figures, life size, of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny—work of a self-taught artist, James Thom—delighted beyond measure—fully expected to hear Tam's uproarious laugh—the expression so perfect; *pose* of figures admirable. Whoever has read Burns, (and who has not?) must see them.

On Wednesday, I step into the Horse Bazaar, Baker Street—inspect the magnificent Exhibition of Musical and Mechanical Automa—Musical Lady, Juvenile Artist, Rope Dancer, Magician, Walking Figure, a magnificent Vase, made by order of Napoleon, Birds, &c.

On Friday, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.—but I intrude—beg pardon.

Your's, PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, English Opera.

This Evening, (2nd time) a new Melo-drama, called

THE WITNESS!

The New MUSIC by Mr A. LEE.

With Overture to Les Deux Avaugles de Tolede

Mr Henderson.....Mr JAMES VINING,
Frank Elton, Mr PERKINS,
Tom Tremor, (his Man) Mr KEELEY,
Mr Holmes..(a Magistrate)..Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Harding, (a Deer Stealer) Mr O. SMITH,
The Witness, Mr BAKER, Wilson, Mr J. COOPER.
Catharine Henderson, Miss KELLY,
Alice, Mrs KEELEY,
Old Janet.....Miss PINCOTT.

After which, (16th time) a new Comic Operetta, called

The Middle Temple.

Preceded by the Overture to Tancredi.

Briefless, Mr WRENCH,
Mr Prettyman, Mr W. BENNETT, Hairbrain, Mr MINTON,
Brutus Hairbrain, Mr KEELEY,
Pounce, Mr HEATH, John, Mr LODGE, Noggins, Mr FULLER,
Doggins, Mr SALTER
Mrs Middlemist, Mrs C. JONES, Julia, Miss H. CAWSE,
Penelope, Mrs KEELEY.

To conclude with, the Grand Opera, (as performed here) called

Der Freischuetz;

OR, THE SEVENTH BULLET.

With the celebrated Overture, and the original Finale, composed by

THE LATE CARL MARIA VON WEBER.

And a select and powerful Band, will be led by Mr WAGSTAFF.

Ottocar, (a Bohemian Prince) Mr J. BLAND,
Kuno, (Ranger of the Forest) Mr THORNE, Killian, Mr J. RUSSELL
Rodolph, (a Huntsman) Mr SAPIO,
Caspar.....(a Huntsman).....Mr H. PHILLIPS,
Hermit, Mr JONES, The Witch of the Glen, Mr J. COOPER,
Zamiel, (the Huntsman Spirit) Mr O. SMITH.
Agnes.....(Kuno's Daughter)..... Miss BETTS,
Ann, (her Cousin) Mrs KEELEY,
Bridesmaids, Mrs Brown, Mrs East, Miss Gliddon, Miss Ibbs, &c.

To-morrow, The Witness, The Quartette, and Gordon the Gypsey.

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening, the Comedy of

THE RIVALS.

Sir Anthony Absolute.....Mr W. FARREN,
Captain Absolute, Mr VINING,
Faulkland, Mr COOPER, Fag, Mr COVENEY,
Sir Lucius O'Trigger, Mr THOMPSON,
Acres, Mr LISTON,
David, Mr ROSS, Coachman, Mr W. JOHNSON.
Mrs Malaprop, Mrs GLOVER,
Julia.....Miss F. H. KELLY,
Lydia Languish, Mrs HUMBY,
Lucy, Mrs TAYLEURE, Maid, Mrs W. JOHNSON.

After which, the Historical Drama of

Charles the Twelfth.

Charles the XIIth, King of Sweden, Mr W. FARREN
Colonel Reichel, Mr J. F. WILLIAMSON,
Duckert, Mr COVENEY, Gustavus, Mr BRINDAL,
Adam Brock, Mr LISTON,
Triptolemus Muddlewerk.....Mr WEBSTER,
Major Vanberg, Mr COOPER,
Officers, Messrs COOKE and GALLOT,
Sentinels, Messrs. V. WEBSTER and BISHOP.
Eudiga, Mrs HUMBY,
Ulrica, Daughter of Vanberg, Miss F. H. KELLY.

To conclude with the Musical Entertainment of

LOCK AND KEY.

Brummagem, Mr WILLIAMS,
Cheerly, Mr WESTERN, Capt. Vain, Mr BRINDAL,
Ralph, Mr J. REEVE.
Laura.....Mrs H. CORRI,
Selina, Mrs COVENEY, Dolly, Mrs W. JOHNSON,
Fanny, Miss M. GLOVER.

To-morrow, The Miser, Charles the Twelfth, &c.

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